

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 were rejected. Claims 7 and 8 are amended. Claims 5-8 are now pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections of claims 5-6 and 8 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 5-6 and 8 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,297,554 to Glynn, et al. (“Glynn”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Glynn does not disclose “fibers and [] front lens being positioned such that they do *not* contact the eye being examined,” as required by independent claim 5. Rather, Glynn’s Abstract states, “The device comprises a scleral *contact* lens” The specification describes how the scleral contact lens firmly contacts the sclera. For example, Glynn states, “The scleral contact lens 1 is designed to fit *onto* the sclera and bulbar conjunctive of the eye so if the eye moves the contact lens 1 moves with it.” (Glynn, column 5:42-44 (emphasis added).) Glynn goes on to explain that the sheathing material of the scleral contact lens “is in contact with the eye.” (Glynn, column 5:49-55.) The different radii of the sclera and the cornea simply ensure that the scleral contact lens contacts the sclera but not the cornea.

The Examiner contends that Figures 8-9 show that the scleral contact lens does not contact the eye being examined. But the negligible separation in these Figures is not meant to indicate that the scleral contact lens does not contact the scleral, but to simply help the viewer distinguish between the scleral contact lens and the cornea. To interpret these Figures otherwise would contradict the description in the specification (discussed above).

Further, Glynn does not disclose an illumination unit “wherein ends of the fibers are formed in such a way that the exiting light is *projected on the sclera of an eye to be examined and transilluminates the sclera*,” as required by independent claim 5. Rather, Glynn’s Figures 8 and 9 clearly show illumination carried out through the cornea and pupil. The enclosed Figure A is a basic diagram of the human eye, where the light yellow portion represents the sclera and the dark yellow portion represents the cornea. As can be observed, the sclera and cornea are distinct portions of the eye. Glynn’s disclosure of an illumination of the cornea is not a disclosure of an illumination of the sclera.

Regarding dependent claim 6, because Glynn does not disclose transillumination of the sclera, Glynn cannot disclose transillumination of the sclera in the nasal and temporal area.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Glynn does not disclose each limitation of independent claim 5 or dependent claims 6 and 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

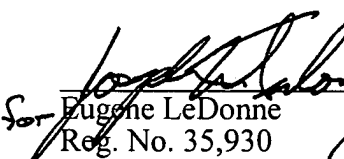
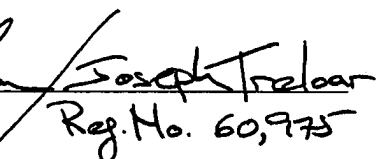
Rejections of claim 7 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claim 7 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Glynn, as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,575,208 to King ("King").

Claim 7 depends from independent claim 5. As claim 5 is allowable, so must be claims 7. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

An early action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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